

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-22 and 24-68 were previously pending in this application. Claims 20, 40, 43 and 45 have been amended and no new claims have been added. As a result, Claims 1, 2, 4-22 and 24-68 are pending for examination with Claims 1, 17, 20, 21, 37, 40-46, and 65 being independent. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Summary of Telephone Conference with Examiner

Applicants' representatives appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Geisel in granting and conducting the telephone conference of November 26, 2007. During the telephone conference Examiner Geisel and Applicants' discussed the amendments to Claims 20, 40, and 43. Based on the discussion regarding the amended claims, it was believed that the application would be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 21, 22, 24-42, 44-58, and 62-68. Claims 40 and 45 have been amended for the purpose of clarity. Applicants also note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 60 and 61.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects Claims 20, 43, and 59 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Butler et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0162978 (Butler). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Butler illustrates tool orientation detection for alignment, depth, and leveling (title). In Fig. 12 (relied upon by the Office Action) Butler shows a circular saw 502 operating in conjunction with a laser system 504 to ensure that the saw 502 follows a predetermined cutting line defined by the laser beam 508 [0015].

Amended Claim 20 requires "...an *electromagnetic radiation source fixed to the blade*, ...*an array of electromagnetic radiation sensors fixed to the blade*... responses of the sensors

indicating orientation of the beam... *the orientation indicating bending of the blade.*" Amended Claim 20 patentably distinguishes Butler for at least two reasons.

First, Butler does not teach or suggest an electromagnetic radiation source or a sensor array *fixed* to a blade. Butler instead teaches a laser system including a source 504 distinct from the saw 502 and a sensor 506 on the saw but not fixed to the blade. The purpose of Butler's system, shown in Fig. 12, is to track the cutting line of the saw 502 along the laser beam. Therefore, it is necessary that the laser source 504 be *unfixed*, or free, of the saw 502, and certainly unfixed to the rotating blade.

Second, Butler does not teach or suggest responses from sensors indicating a bending of the blade. Butler instead teaches responses from sensors indicating alignment, depth, or leveling of a blade. Thus, amended Claim 20 is patentably distinct from Butler. Claim 59 depends from amended Claim 20 and is therefore patentably distinct from Butler for at least the same reasons.

As should be appreciated from the above discussion relating to amended Claim 20, amended Claims 40 and 43 patentably distinguishes Butler for at least the same reasons. Specifically, Butler fails to teach or suggest an electromagnetic radiation source and a sensor array fixed to a blade and/or responses from sensors indicating a bending of the blade.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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